

# OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## **DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA (DPRK): TRAIN EXPLOSION IN RYONGCHON COUNTY**

**5 July 2005**

*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilising the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organisation and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.*

### **In Brief**

**Appeal No. 12/2004; Operations Update no. 10; Period covered: 26 April 2004 to 30 April 2005; Appeal coverage: 118.7%;**

*[Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website.](#)*

#### **Appeal history:**

- Preliminary appeal launched on 26 April 2004 for CHF 1,652,000 (USD 1.25 million or EUR 1.06 million) for 1,850 families for 12 months.
- Appeal consolidated on 19 May 2004 to CHF 1,684,000 (USD 1.25 million or EUR 1.06 million) for 1,850 families for 12 months.
- Beneficiary numbers were revised in Operations Update no. 7 to include 2,430 families whose homes were partially destroyed.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 50,000.

**Outstanding needs: None**

**Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:** [Annual Appeal 2005 \(05AA059\)](#)  
[East Asia Regional Appeal 2005 \(05AA061\)](#)

#### **Operational Summary:**

**A year after the disaster in Ryongchon, the emergency operation has wrapped up. All relief activities were completed by September 2004, prompting positive beneficiary responses. Notably, advanced preparations of the DPRK Red Cross ensured the efficient and timely manner of the operations.**

**Following the lessons learned exercise, the national society and the Federation delegation proposed a reallocation of funds from the positive balance left after the end of operations to disaster management and capacity building programmes.**

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*All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

## Background

After the massive train explosion on 22 April 2004 that occurred at the Ryongchon railway station in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK) North Pyongan Province. The powerful blast which devastated the immediate surrounding area left 161 people dead and injured some 1,300, testing the efficiency of the DPRK Red Cross Society's disaster management programme. Over the past 12 months the DPRK Red Cross and the International Federation have worked to support the community's recovery from the devastating blast by implementing a three-pronged response intended to support immediate, mid- and long-term needs of the population.

Ryongchon's population is approximately 27,000 people. Thousands were left homeless when the explosion destroyed 1,850 homes and damaged 6,360 others. The blast also disrupted the county's electricity supply and damaged its water systems. A large number of public buildings were damaged including schools, the county hospital and the polyclinic located close to the train station. The high number of people injured or dead because of the disaster created a great need for immediate support to cope with the crisis as well as medium- and long-term assistance.

The Ryongchon branch of the DPRK Red Cross immediately responded to the explosion by establishing five temporary first aid posts close to the disaster site and mobilizing 398 Red Cross volunteers; a relief operation was mounted by the DPRK Red Cross and the Federation within 24 hours of the disaster.



*The DPRK Red Cross and the Federation delegation supported the affected communities' recovery through supporting their immediate, mid- and long-term needs.*

International donors such as the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and Australian Agency for International Development (AUSAID), and sister national societies of Canada, Denmark, Finland, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Sweden and the United States quickly responded to the needs by supporting the DPRK Red Cross' and the International Federation's appeal, enabling the national society to effectively meet its existing needs.

The progress of the entire operation has been documented through a series of regularly published operations updates that are posted on the Federation's website ([www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)).

## Analysis of the operation: emergency relief (food and basic non-food items)

Following the initial assessment conducted by the national society on 23 April 2004, and at the request of the DPRK government's flood damage rehabilitation committee (FDRC), trucks carrying 2,000 kitchen sets, 10,000 blankets, 2,000 water containers, 2,000 tarpaulins, 720,000 water purification tablets and 1,000 first aid kits left the centre's warehouse for the affected area. On 23 April, the DPRK Red Cross conducted a preliminary assessment of the situation.

On 24 April 2004, a team of five Federation delegates travelled to the disaster site from Pyongyang as part of an interagency assessment mission responding to a formal request from the government. Among the other participants were the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization (WHO), World Food Programme (WFP), the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), ICRC, ECHO, Concern Worldwide, German AgroAction, and Premiere Urgence. A number of diplomatic missions were also represented.



*Representatives from the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and other humanitarian and diplomatic organizations participated in an interagency assessment mission in April.*

The assessments drew upon a combination of information gathered by the DPRK Red Cross assessment team; the Federation's fact finding missions; UN information; and coordination and exchange of information with other international agencies. Finally, the Federation's regional disaster management/disaster preparedness delegate was deployed from Beijing to Pyongyang on 8 May for a week to finalize the contents of the Federation's emergency appeal, including coordination of the use of (as of then) pledged donations to the Federation's operation.

**Overall appeal objective: The objective of this appeal is to address both the short-term and long-term needs of 1,850 families who lost their homes as a result of 22 April's explosion in Ryongchon county, as well as to provide support to 2,420 families whose homes were damaged by the explosion.**

### Phase I

**Project objective: To restock disaster preparedness warehouses in Sinuiju and Pyongyang with tarpaulins, quilts, jerry cans and 45 supplementary health kits.**

In order to best meet the needs of the affected community, Red Cross assistance was divided into three phases. The first phase was the replenishment of stock for the society's disaster preparedness centres and medical supplies which had been distributed immediately in the wake of the disaster meeting the immediate and emergency needs of Ryongchon's affected population.

The DPRK Red Cross and the Federation delegation released the following items from their disaster preparedness warehouses in Pyongyang and Sinuiju.

Items	Unit	Quantity	Remarks
Kitchen	Set	2,500	From Sinuiju and Pyongyang disaster preparedness centres
Blankets	Piece	14,000	
Water containers	Piece	5,040	
Tarpaulins	Piece	2,000	
Water purification tablets	Tablet	720,000	
First aid kits	Kit	687	From Pyongyang disaster preparedness centre
First aid package refill kits	Kit	30	
Supplementary medicine	Kit	8	
Supplementary medicine	Kit	13	
Supplementary medicine	Kit	3	
Supplementary medicine	Kit	6	
Supplementary medicine	Kit	3	
Supplementary medicine	Kit	12	

Direct beneficiaries were all the people in the area affected by the accident and left vulnerable in terms of shelter, medical needs and potable water. Prior to the distribution of relief items, the Ryongchon county branch of the DPRK Red Cross, the national society's disaster management department and representatives from the Federation's country delegation, in full coordination with the FDRC, identified the beneficiaries for Red Cross assistance.

It was agreed that the DPRK Red Cross would allocate the majority of its resources towards providing assistance to families who lost their homes and thus were left in the most vulnerable state by the explosion. The total loss of one's home qualified as a main vulnerability factor in determining the beneficiaries who would receive the full package of Red Cross relief assistance.

Many of these were single elderly women who did not have the capacity to provide for themselves. Very few visited by the DPRK Red Cross and the Federation managed to save any of their household belongings after the train explosion. Red Cross support was also, however, directed towards the general local population affected by the accident. The initial distributions faced some difficulty given that some of the affected people were only temporary residents in Ryongchon and a number of them received assistance despite not being

officially registered. Distributions were later organized in close cooperation with the unit heads. The affected residential area was divided into a number of units, all referring to a higher-level unit. The heads knew all the residents in their respective units and could quickly identify the beneficiaries. In cases where the unit head was unavailable, the head of the higher-level unit provided the DPRK Red Cross branch with beneficiary lists.

Health facilities in the area were inadequate owing to the large number of people wounded in the accident. Despite provisions from the DPRK Red Cross and WHO, there was a continuing need for further medical supplies. As a result, the county hospital in Ryongchon and the provincial hospital in Sinuiju, as well as the six smaller hospitals and clinics in the counties, received relief and medical relief items from the DPRK Red Cross' central warehouse in Pyongyang.

The Danish Red Cross, with funding from ECHO and technical support from the DPRK Red Cross and the Federation delegation, purchased 2,000 tarpaulins, 14,000 quilts, 5,040 jerry cans, and 45 supplementary health kits to replenish disaster preparedness supplies in the national society's disaster preparedness centres in Sinuiju, located some five kilometres from Ryongchon, and in Pyongyang. The supplies which were purchased with ECHO funding are critical to maintaining the society's level of preparedness.

The Ryongchon explosion demonstrated a society's capacity to respond quickly and effectively to sudden disasters depending on the availability of the appropriate emergency supplies. The DPRK Red Cross and Federation's long-term disaster preparedness programme, supported by the British Red Cross and the British government's Department for International Development (DFID), provided the society with the knowledge, training and the material to respond quickly to the explosion. There is no doubt that the ongoing long-term disaster preparedness and response training enabled the prompt action on the ground.

The Danish Red Cross also purchased an additional 3,700 quilts for the centres with funding from other sources.

### **Impact**

A large number of people who lost their homes and belongings to the explosion were able to quickly receive relief items from the DPRK Red Cross affording them greater comfort in the days following the disaster. Public appreciation for the assistance provided by the DPRK Red Cross in the wake of the explosion has in turn improved the society's image nationwide.

The restocking of disaster preparedness items will further strengthen the national society capacity and facilitate rapid response for responding to emergency disaster situations in the event of future natural or industrial disasters.

### **Phase II: Mid-term support**

The second phase addressed the mid-term needs of the affected population. As stated previously, many families lost all of their belongings in the explosion and there was a need to replace winter items such as shoes and quilts with the onset of winter in October to protect beneficiaries from the nation's fierce winter climate as they made the transition back to their normal routine.

#### **Phase II project objective 1: to provide each of 1,850 families (9,250 individuals) who lost their homes and their belongings in the explosion with:**

- **1 set of a winter jacket and pants**
- **1 pair of winter shoes**
- **1 quilt**
- **300 kg of coal for cooking**

The provision of essential items such as winter shoes and quilts to those who had either lost their entire homes and all of their household items or were severely affected by the train explosion, contributed to the household income of the beneficiaries. This released available personal income for the purchase of other important items. The distribution of one pair of winter shoes to each of 9,250 beneficiaries; two quilts provided to each of

1,850 families who lost their homes during the explosion; and two quilts to each of 2,420 families severely affected by the explosion was carried out on 17 September 2004 by the DPRK Red Cross over the period of 15-17 September in five distribution centres.

The Federation disaster management delegate, based in DPRK, attended the distribution which was carried out efficiently as the DPRK Red Cross had made preparations well in advance. Federation delegates travelled extensively in the affected area with staff from the DPRK Red Cross during the distribution period, visiting beneficiaries and working with local Red Cross staff and volunteers.

All the relief items were delivered in advance to distribution points in the centre of each of the affected areas. Tallies made by the Federation delegate showed no discrepancies between the number of items distributed and the distribution plan.

Beneficiaries identified for assistance were provided with the distribution schedule and were all in attendance at the distribution points prior to the arrival of the monitoring team. Before commencing with the final distribution, the DPRK Red Cross relief officer provided the beneficiaries with an explanation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and the Federation as well as a description of the items that the beneficiaries were to receive.



*Monitoring visits concluded that the most vulnerable had been selected for assistance and that distributions were conducted in compliance with Federation standards.*

During monitoring visits to the distribution carried out by DPRK Red Cross volunteers at the various sites, the Federation delegate observed that beneficiary registration and identification had been completed; all goods were stacked neatly and ready for distribution; and all stocks matched with the distribution plan and the number of beneficiaries present. Additionally, the beneficiary list had been made out to include the names of the household members, the family size and the items to be received with each beneficiary being required to sign for receipt of goods.

Visits to beneficiary households and observations made during the actual distribution of relief items confirmed that the national society, in cooperation with the local authorities, had selected the most vulnerable homeless families for assistance.

Winter clothes and shoes for the men, women, children and infants who were living in the households destroyed by the explosion were procured in accordance with the Federation logistics procedures. The tables below provide an overview of the quantities of the items which were procured to meet the needs of the families.

#### Winter jacket and pants

No. of families	No. of beneficiaries	Size (M: male; F: female) and quantity (unit=pieces)						Total
		XXL	XL	Large	Medium	Small	Infant	
1,850	9,250	1,500 M 500 F	1,400 M 750 F	800 M 1,200 F	600 M 1,000 F	400 M 400 F	700 M/F	9,250

Please note that clothing size in DPRK differs from European or North American standards.

The table below provides an overview of the number of pairs of winter shoes which were procured in China and subsequently distributed to those who had lost their homes entirely to the explosion.

#### Winter Shoes (funded by the American Red Cross (USAID/OFDA))

No. of families	No. of beneficiaries	Size and quantity	42	40	39	38	37	36	35	32	30	28	Total
1,850	9,250	(pieces)	800	1,000	1,000	1,000	900	900	1,000	900	900	850	9,250

All the individual beneficiaries and local Red Cross volunteers interviewed expressed their satisfaction with the household items received. Additionally, interviews conducted with a selected number of the beneficiaries by the disaster management delegate at their homes confirmed the usefulness of the items which were distributed.

**15-17 September 2004: distribution of 3,700 quilts to 1,850 families (two quilts for each family) who lost their homes due to the explosion.**

<b>DISTRIBUTION REPORT OF QUILTS TO DPRK RED CROSS BENEFICIARIES IN RYONGCHON COUNTY</b>			
<b>15-17 September 2004</b>			
<b>NO.</b>	<b>Name of distribution point</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>No. of families</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>YANSI</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>350</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>YOKJON</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>345</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>YANGHWA</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>390</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>SUDOSAN</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>365</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>OSONG</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>400</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,700</b>	<b>1,850</b>

### **Impact**

The distribution of basic items such as winter clothing, shoes, coal for cooking and quilts by the DPRK Red Cross enabled the affected to use their personal household income for other items including food.

### **Constraints**

Some minor delays occurred with procuring the household items.

**Phase II project objective 2: to provide winter assistance for 6,360 families whose homes were damaged by the explosion in the form of:**

- **2 quilts per family**

Discussions were held regarding ongoing relief activities of the Federation disaster management delegate, the DPRK Red Cross task force coordinating relief activities in Ryongchon and the Ryongchon Red Cross branch. There were also discussions with the Ryongchon emergency committee and the beneficiaries about their existing needs. These demonstrated a need to extend the scope of assistance beyond the families whose homes were completely destroyed, to also cover some of the needs of the 6,360 families whose homes were damaged by the explosion. Of primary concern was how these families would be able to cope with the country's severe winter temperatures. To this end, funding received from the US government will be used to support a part of the Red Cross assistance to the 6,360 families in Ryongchon who were affected by April's blast, but did not receive any assistance during the emergency phase. A total of 12,720 quilts (two for each family) will be distributed to the affected families.

As with the project under objective 1, distributions were carried out as planned and distributions were appreciated by the beneficiaries.

### **Logistics**

The International Federation guidelines were applied in the procurement, transport, storage and distribution of all the items covered by this appeal.

Much of the procurement was carried out through the Federation Secretariat in Geneva. Items such as kitchen sets, winter jackets, pants and construction material for the polyclinic were purchased locally.

The local procurement procedures were carried out as follows: notices for tenders were sent to suppliers; bids were received in sealed envelopes and opened in the presence of DPRK Red Cross staff and Federation representatives. After the analysis of the bids, the most favourable offers were awarded contracts after

receiving final approval from the Federation Secretariat in Geneva. The analysis of the bids was based on the validity of the bids, price, quality, quantity, time frame, acceptability and reliability.

### **Monitoring**

A distribution plan was prepared by the DPRK Red Cross and approved by the Federation's delegation. The Federation and DPRK Red Cross headquarter staff attended all distributions related to this operation. All of the relief items were delivered in advance to distribution points in the centre of each affected area.

Tallies made by the delegate showed no discrepancies from the distribution plan. The affected people selected for assistance were given the distribution schedule and they were all in attendance at the distribution points prior to the arrival of the monitoring team.

It was obvious from the physical appearance of those attending the distributions, as well as the home visits that followed, that the national society in cooperation with the local authorities had selected the most vulnerable homeless families for assistance. Not only had they all lost their homes, but many were lone, elderly women who did not have the capacity to provide for themselves. Very few of those visited had managed to save any of their belongings after the train explosion.

During the monitoring of the distribution carried out by the DPRK Red Cross volunteers in different areas the Federation delegates observed that beneficiary registration and identification had been completed, all goods were stacked neatly and ready for distribution, all stocks tallied with a distribution plan and the beneficiaries were present. Additionally, a beneficiary list that included names of household, family size, items to be received had been prepared. Each beneficiary was required to sign for receipt of goods.

The ECHO representative visited the affected areas along with the Federation delegates and DPRK Red Cross officials. The objective of the visit was to monitor the distribution of relief items and to observe the impact of the operation. All the individual beneficiaries and local Red Cross volunteers interviewed expressed their satisfaction with the relief received.

DPRK Red Cross and the Federation disaster management delegate visited the Siniju warehouse to monitor the disaster preparedness warehouse after the arrival of items funded by ECHO. The DPRK Red Cross and the Federation thereby confirmed that all the items were well received.

## **Phase III: reconstruction of the polyclinic and the restoration of the water supply**

### **1. Reconstruction and equipping of the polyclinic**

**Phase III reconstruction project objective: To rebuild the 750-m<sup>2</sup> polyclinic for use by the community as a diagnostic centre and for physical therapy.**

Ryongchon's polyclinic which was located close to the train station was completely destroyed by the explosion. The former polyclinic had the capacity to treat some 80-100 outpatients daily.

Shortly after the explosion, the DPRK government approached the DPRK Red Cross and the International Federation delegation to rebuild the polyclinic. The DPRK Red Cross and the Federation delegation have been working closely with WHO, which has assumed responsibility for coordinating the international agencies' assistance in relation to the reconstruction and equipping of medical facilities in the disaster stricken area and for liaising with the Flood Damage Rehabilitation Committee (FDRC) and the ministry of public health. The DPRK Red Cross, the Federation, WHO, the ministry of public health and the FDRC are coordinating activities to ensure that the design and equipment provided to the polyclinic are consistent with the overall reconstruction plan and that the functions of the polyclinic in relation to the hospital are clearly defined to avoid duplication and better serve the public's needs.

The DPRK Red Cross has employed a technical construction expert to oversee the construction process of the polyclinic, while the Federation also has contracted an independent consultant to supervise the implementation of the polyclinic design.

- The polyclinic is a two-storey building with a basement floor covering about two-thirds of the foundation area.
- The first floor is about 34.5 m x 13.8 m in dimension with 23 rooms, mainly treatment rooms.
- The second floor is about 34.5 m x 13.8 m in dimension with 23 rooms, mainly treatment rooms and offices.
- The basement floor is about 22.8 m x 13.8 m in dimension with 17 rooms which are primarily used as store rooms.
- The total area is about 1,267 m<sup>2</sup>.



*DPRK Red Cross and the Federation delegation, coordinating with WHO, the ministry of public health and the FDRC, helped rebuild the destroyed polyclinic in Ryongchon.*

The independent consultant, contracted through the Federation, has ensured that the procurement of construction materials has been consistent with the project plans throughout the three stages of the building's construction.

The consultant conducted a total of three site visits in Ryongchon. The first took place on 30 September 2004 to observe the building's basement and first floor. The consultant noted that some changes from the original design had been made.

The second site visit took place on 10 November 2004 following substantial work to the building's first and second storeys, although plastering work was still ongoing. The basement floor was being used for storing material and therefore not much progress had been made in completing the basement since the previous visit. The third site visit took place on 21 December 2004.

All of the construction materials for the polyclinic were procured locally. The Federation logistics delegate in DPRK coordinated and conducted the procurement process in cooperation with the disaster management department.

### **Polyclinic equipment and furniture**

The DPRK Red Cross and the Federation delegation jointly prepared the list of necessary equipment for the polyclinic. The equipment includes a sonograph, and medical and laboratory equipment. The items were originally planned to arrive on 10 December 2004. The medical and laboratory equipment for the polyclinic, however, arrived at the DPRK on 5 March 2005 and was delivered to the Ryongchon polyclinic on 9 March 2005. Furniture for the polyclinic was procured locally and arrived in Ryongchon on 15 December 2004. Additional medical equipment was ordered in March 2005 through the Secretariat's logistics department in Geneva. Some 1,000 manuals for household doctors were ordered as well.



*The new water supply system has improved the overall health and hygiene of the beneficiaries, while its closer accessibility is allowing Ryongchon residents to spend more time on food production.*

### **Water supply system**

**Phase III water supply project objective: To supply 27,000 people (total urban population) with 8,000 m<sup>3</sup> of potable water daily.**

The DPRK Red Cross and the Federation delegation in cooperation with the FDRC, UNICEF, Concern and Cooperazione e Sviluppo (CESVI) have supported the restoration of the city's water supply by supplying materials for the construction of a new water supply system and waste water collection system. The materials supplied included pumps and transformers – to pump the water from the sources up to a water storage tower – and pipes and fittings for the distribution

networks. Technicians from the DPRK Red Cross conducted a workshop in November to train the local technicians and workers on the installation of water and waste water pipes and fittings.

The DPRK Red Cross and the Federation who already have a significant number of ongoing water and sanitation activities as part of the society's health programme made best efforts to ensure that the overall design of the system is consistent with the quality of the other ongoing DPRK Red Cross/Federation supported activities. The system was designed and built to conform to the FDRC's developing master plan for reconstruction in Ryongchon.



*DPRK Red Cross trained local technicians to install water and waste water pipes and fittings.*

Construction of the piped water supply distribution system was completed and the system is already supplying clean water to the homes in Ryongchon. The system will reach full capacity upon completion of the water tower, materials for the construction of which were also supplied by the Red Cross. Construction of the piped waste water collection system is also complete and is safely conveying waste water away from the Ryongchon homes.

### **Impact**

The polyclinic is equipped in accordance with WHO's recommended standards and is a valuable resource for those people living in Ryongchon for two reasons. The first is that given the strain on DPRK's already fragile health system there is very little room in any of DPRK's communities to lose access to any pre-existing health facilities. In the case of Ryongchon, the clinic provides medical services locally so that those people seeking medical assistance are not required to travel long distances.

Secondly, the newly constructed reticulated water supply system, while still not operating at full capacity, supplies potable water to all the households, thereby improving hygiene and nutrition. The renewed and sustained water supply network system enables Ryongchon residents to spend more time on food production instead of carrying water from wells.

### **Constraints**

Sub-zero temperatures in winter resulted in the suspension of the construction of the polyclinic and the water tower for over two months.

Although it was originally expected that the local authorities would construct the water tower for the waste water treatment plant this was not carried out as planned. This in turn delayed supplying water to the affected community. Thus, the water tower is still not finished and the water supply system will continue to operate at low capacity until otherwise.

### **Coordination**

The coordination between the DPRK Red Cross, the Federation delegation, the FDRC, international agencies and NGOs operating in Ryongchon was central in developing the strategy for this appeal.

The Federation's head of country delegation, as well as the health, disaster management, water and sanitation and logistics delegates, together with the East Asia regional disaster management delegate and representatives from the DPRK Red Cross are active participants in interagency meetings and maintain regular contact with the government. Construction, and water and sanitation activities were planned to meet the needs set forth by the FDRC in their master rehabilitation and reconstruction plan.

## National Society Capacity Building

Ryongchon county has a population of 123,200 of whom approximately 27,000 live in the city itself. It is in one of the four operating provinces where the DPRK Red Cross and the Federation provide humanitarian health and care support. This includes the distribution of basic medical drugs to health institutions and promoting access of vulnerable groups to basic health care services. The DPRK Red Cross and the Federation train and develop the skills of health care providers and Red Cross volunteers at community level on issues including disease prevention, first aid and care for common health problems such as acute respiratory infections and waterborne diseases, as well as maternal and child health.

Additionally, the national society is supporting the rehabilitation of water and sanitation systems in the province. At the time the disaster struck, the DPRK Red Cross warehouses contained sufficient pre-positioned stocks to meet the immediate needs for non-food relief items of 15,000 families. Stock from the warehouses in Sinuiju and Pyongyang were readily accessible for distribution and long-term efforts placed on developing the society's disaster management department as well as the society's volunteers paid off as those left homeless by the explosion were able to quickly receive urgently needed relief items. With support from the Federation's country delegation, relief items were immediately mobilized from the warehouses and were ready for distribution beginning 24 April.

## Lessons learned

In May 2004 the DPRK Red Cross and the Federation's delegation held a meeting on lessons learned from the Ryongchon operation. Attendance was drawn from the national society and Federation representatives from the health, water and sanitation, logistics and disaster management departments. A total of six national society staff members and 12 Federation staff members took part in the lessons learned exercise which was facilitated jointly by the disaster management delegate and visiting British Red Cross disaster preparedness advisor.

The lessons learned and the recommendations made in regard to the Ryongchon operation were as follows:

- Develop an emergency water supply capacity within the national society.
- Review and repair as necessary all existing stock items held by the national society and share overall stock updates with Federation.
- Develop a national contingency plan which includes industrial accident scenarios.
- Establish a national disaster response team with the capacity to conduct major assessments and coordinate initial response to medium to large disasters, and probably with search and rescue ability.
- Unsolicited relief items from other national societies need to be managed – key measures include clear labelling of all donated supplies, training warehouse managers on procedures for accepting materials and ensuring that warehouses are not crowded with unnecessary relief materials.

## Conclusion

The swift response of the national society and support from the operations' donors contributed to the successful achievement of all of the operational objectives benefiting some 127,000 persons. As of the close of the operation an estimated positive balance of CHF 130,000 (7 per cent) remains. Following discussions between the national society and the International Federation, and in order to continue to follow up on the recommendations made during the lessons learned exercise conducted at the end of the operation, it is proposed to reallocate these funds to the DPRK Red Cross's disaster management programme and capacity building activities in the organizational development programme.

**[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.](#)**

# D.P.R. KOREA - Train Explosion

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 12/2004

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

27/06/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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### CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1,684,000	TOTAL COVERAGE 118.7%	
AMERICAN - RC		10,000	USD	12,735	27.04.04	
AMERICAN - GOVT/OFDA		100,000	USD	127,350	27.04.04	
AMERICAN - PRIVATE DONOR		13,050	USD	16,502	16.09.04	
AUSTRALIAN - GOVT		250,000	AUD	232,875	13.05.04	
AUSTRALIAN - RC		15,225	AUD	13,269	09.11.04	
AUSTRIAN - RC/GOVT		50,000	EUR	77,975	30.04.04	
BRITISH - RC		15,000	GBP	34,358	04.05.04	
BRITISH - RC		1,660	GBP	3,795	21.09.04	
CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA/IHA		100,000	CAD	97,600	26.04.04	
ECHO/DANISH - RC		200,000	EUR	305,800	28.06.04	
FINNISH - RC		50,000	EUR	77,975	27.04.04	
FRENCH - PRIVATE DONOR		456	EUR	697	10.06.04	
FRENCH - PRIVATE DONOR		2,482	EUR	3,764	30.11.04	
HELLENIC - GOVT		30,000	EUR	45,870	29.06.04	SONOGRAPH & TRAINING FOR 1 PERSON
IRISH - RC		25,000	EUR	38,988	28.04.04	
IRISH - GOVT		100,000	EUR	153,600	19.05.04	
CHINA/HONG KONG RC BRANCH		146,000	HKD	24,353	24.05.04	
JAPANESE - RC		83,195	USD	105,948	26.04.04	
KOREAN - RC		100,000	USD	127,350	04.05.04	
LIECHTENSTEIN - RC				15,000	04.06.04	
LUXEMBOURG - GOVT		50,000	EUR	76,450	15.07.04	
MALAYSIAN - RC		38,000	MYR	12,426	25.08.04	
MONACO - RC		12,000	EUR	18,432	28.06.04	
PRIVATE DONORS				2,980	10.06.04	
SINGAPORE - GOVT/RC				70,000	29.04.04	
SINGAPORE - GOVT/RC		113,687	SGD	83,457	28.06.04	
SWEDISH - RC		1,000,000	SEK	169,000	04.05.04	
UNHCR		25,000	EUR	31,612	20.05.04	WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1,980,161	CHF	117.6%

### KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
AUSTRALIA	DELEGATES			18,400		
Note: due to systems upgrades in process, contributions in kind and services may be incomplete.						
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				18,400	CHF	1.1%

# D.P.R. KOREA - Train Explosion

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 12/2004

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

27/06/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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### ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
REPUBLIC OF KOREA - RC		5,810,302	USD	7,399,420	10.05.04	BLANKETS, CLOTHES, MEDICINE, WATER, FOOD, KITCHEN SETS, RELIEF SETS, TRUCKS, VEHICLES , EXCAVATORS
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				7,399,420	CHF	